



## For Immediate Release

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### **Fairfield continues to innovate in tough times**

**Fairfield, CA (Wednesday, August 29, 2012)**—Fairfield is celebrating the news that its downtown theater is being revived through an innovative private/public partnership. Local and regional performers will once again entertain, educate, and engage the community in the fine arts.

While the City's economic development and community resources staffs were busy working with the representative of the forming Downtown Theater Foundation for the Arts, the Public Works Department was exploring other ways, using rebate and incentive programs to implement green technology, to save the City money.

On August 21, the same night the Fairfield City Council approved the theater agreement, authorization was given to Public Works to execute an energy power purchase agreement that will affect the City's cost of energy for the North Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant (NBR), which is jointly operated with the City of Vacaville. The cities have carved out seven acres on the NBR site, located on Peabody Road between Vacaville and Fairfield, for the construction of a 1-megawatt solar power array.

The array will be constructed and owned by an experienced solar power developer, and NBR will be its only customer purchasing all the output. "This configuration – having a solar company build, own, maintain the array, and provide the electrical power to NBR – just makes sense. The City is not interested in getting into the solar business, but we are very interested in planning ahead and fixing the price of power to run our plant," stated Assistant Public Works Director Felix Riesenber. "PG&E's price for electricity to the City is forecasted to increase steadily over the next 20 years, and we anticipate saving between \$1 and \$3 million over that time using solar power."

The City is also expecting to enjoy energy credit from PG&E when the array produces more electricity than NBR needs to operate. As the market for Renewable Energy Certificates (REC), which are tradable commodities that can be sold for cash or other benefits, continues to evolve, the City will also look to generate revenue using the RECs.

These are but two examples of how Fairfield continues to look for innovative and creative ways to reduce its expenditures and generate revenue to support the services its community relies on.

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**About the Public Works Department**

City of Fairfield Public Works employees include those who maintain, operate, and manage the water treatment and distribution systems, sewer collection systems, storm drainage systems, public transportation, public buildings, parks and landscaping, streets, traffic control devices, and the City fleet. In addition, they oversee the preparation of all private and public development plans, and are responsible for reviewing new construction and public improvements within the city of Fairfield. The Public Works Department is committed to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining infrastructure and facilities that will stand the test of time. To learn more about the projects and services provided by the Public Works Department, please refer to the City of Fairfield's website, [www.fairfield.ca.gov](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov).